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Johannesburg. Dr. Maynard was formerly M.O.H. for the suburbs of Pretoria, and subsequently assistant medical officer to the Witwatersrand Association. It is expected that the building will be completed in about a year.

THE British secretary of state for the colonies has, as we learn from *Nature*, appointed a commission to study the nature and the relative frequency of the fevers occurring amongst the Europeans, natives and others in West Africa, especially with regard to yellow fever and its minor manifestations.

M. JULES DE PAYER, as we learn from foreign exchanges, has furnished particulars of his projected Arctic expedition, which is intended to leave France in the summer. With the support of the government and various societies, he will follow his father, the distinguished explorer, in making for Franz Josef Land. One of his objects is to locate the margin of the polar basin to the northeast of that archipelago, an investigation which, if successfully carried out, will provide data for an estimate of the relative areas of the basin and the continental shelf in that quarter of the Arctic region. A scientific staff will accompany M. de Payer, with equipment for the prosecution of research in all the various departments which have become associated with polar work; among them the investigation of the upper atmosphere by means of kites is specially indicated. The party will be provided for a sojourn of one year or longer in the north, its ship returning in the meantime. It is to be provided with two aeroplanes, the utility of which as instruments in polar research will be observed with interest: a visit to the pole itself is mentioned as a possibility, but does not appear as a prime object of the expedition. Wireless telegraphy will be installed at the headquarters.

THE Washington Academy of Sciences has held a field meeting including the region of Cape Henry and Yorktown, which left Washington by a special steamer on April 25 and returned on April 27.

THE regular monthly meeting of the State Microscopical Society of Illinois was held on April 10, 1913, at the rooms of the Chicago Press Club. The subject for the evening was "Bacteria, with Practical Demonstration in preparing Slides and Cultures," by Margaret Grant, A.M., M.D. At this meeting final reports of the recent soiree by the society and the Academy of Sciences, held in the academy building, Lincoln Park, were submitted, showing that there were twelve hundred persons in attendance. Sixty-one microscopes were in charge of forty-eight exhibitors.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE board of regents of the University of Nebraska, at its annual meeting, voted a general increase in salaries of deans and professors, distributing thus the \$35,000 additional maintenance voted by the last legislature.

THE faculty of the Ohio State University has adopted an arts-agricultural course, five years in length. The first three years, students will be registered in the Arts College; the last two years, in the Agricultural College. At the end of the fourth year, the degree of bachelor of arts will be given, and at the end of the fifth year, the bachelor of science in agriculture.

THE Phi Beta Kappa elections for the year at the University of Wisconsin indicate that women students excel men in scholarship, as twenty-two of the thirty-six elections were women.

PROFESSOR OSKAR BOLZA, of the University of Freiburg, is to offer courses this summer at the University of Chicago on "Linear Integral Equations" and "Functions of a Complex Variable." Other graduate courses in mathematics are announced on "Fourier Series," "Linear Continuum and Point-set Theory" (Moore); "Projective Geometry" (Bliss), and "Modern Theory of Analytic Differential Equations" (Moulton). Dr. F. A. Lindemann, of the University of Berlin, is to lecture throughout the summer quarter at the University of Chicago on "Kinetic The-

ories." Other graduate lecture courses in physics are announced on "Relativity" (Lunn), "Wireless Waves" (Kinsley), "Radiation Theories" (Millikan).

DR. FRANKLIN D. BARKER has completed ten years of service in the University of Nebraska and has been made a full professor, having charge of the work in medical zoology and parasitology in the department of zoology.

DR. IRA D. CARDIFF, professor of plant physiology and bacteriology in Washington State College, has been appointed head of the department of botany. Professor John G. Hall, of the South Carolina Agricultural College, has been appointed professor of plant pathology in the same institution.

To the professorship of bacteriology in Columbia University made vacant by the death of Dr. Philip Hanson Hiss, Dr. Hans Zinsser, professor of bacteriology in Leland Stanford University, has been appointed.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### UNIVERSITY LIFE IN IDAHO

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Professor J. M. Aldrich, professor of zoology and entomology in the University of Idaho (Moscow), has just been summarily dismissed without trial or official warning after twenty years of faithful and successful service. The conspicuous incidents connected with this matter are few, simple and suggestive. They are the following:

In 1900 James A. McLean, a young Canadian, came to the University as president and director of the agricultural experiment station. He was a doctor of philosophy from Columbia in economics. He found the duties of director of an agricultural experiment station bewildering and uncongenial.

In 1904 Professor Aldrich with five other members of the faculty protested to the board of regents that the president was incompetent for his place. Strangely neither the president nor the protesting professors were dismissed but a compromise was effected which endured for eight years. It may be inferred from later occurrences that despite the long and healing

lapse of time, the criticized president did not forget nor forgive his critics.

In 1912 President McLean left Idaho to become the president of the University of Manitoba. Before he left he made out, and gave to the board of regents, a list of professors who ought to be dismissed.

Near the end of 1912, Idaho did away with all separate boards for its various educational institutions and put its whole system in charge of a single new board. The law enacting this provided that the old boards shall hold their last meetings in the following spring.

In April, 1913, President McLean, of the University of Manitoba, crossed an international boundary and the boundary of decency and in secret session with the acting president of the University of Idaho made up a list of seven undesirable professors which list was presented to the dying board of regents and promptly acted on. All were dismissed. At the end of the meeting the board died, and its victims received their malodorous notices of dismissal two days after the board had been defunct. Thus Professor Aldrich and six colleagues have enjoyed the peculiar experience of being removed from their positions on the recommendation of a citizen of Manitoba by an official board which passed out of existence before the victims knew what had happened to them.

An appeal to Governor Haines of Idaho has resulted in an official statement that the regents acted entirely within their authority.

No comment seems necessary on these interesting incidents. Professor Aldrich, who is an unusually competent entomologist, and a peculiarly prepossessing and attractive man, will of course have no difficulty in finding work elsewhere. Will Idaho have as little difficulty in getting as good a man to fill his place?

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#### EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS AT AN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

PERFECT freedom in the expression of ideas and opinions is born of one of two conditions, either full information, or lack of informa-